GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3871
ANSWERED ON:08.04.2003
ROAD CONNECTIVITY UNDER PMGSY
SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry have approached the Ministry of Environment and Forests to permit construction of roads through forest areas under the PMGSY;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of villages with more than 500 population remaining unconnected due to the problem of forest cover, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU)

(a) & (b) The issue of forest clearance of PMGSY roads had been taken up in the year 2000 with the Ministry of Environment & Forests who were of the view that in respect of most of the Rural Roads forest clearance, if required, can be obtained within a period of 6 weeks provided all the information is complete. The State Governments are accordingly expected to obtain forest clearance wherever required before taking up such works under the PMGSY.

(c) No such data is maintained in this Ministry.

(d) State Governments have reported during Review Meetings that if any problem arises in obtaining clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, it is sorted out in consultation with Forest Department officials at the State level.